

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 /074 W

-----201656 119263 /41

R 201620Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5962

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: QUESTIONS REMAIN

1. WITH ONLY FIVE DAYS REMAINING UNTIL FEB 25 NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, MEDIA CONCENTRATING ON LONG-WINDED, THEORETICAL ARTICLES ON ASSEMBLY'S PLACE IN SOCIALIST FIRMAMENT AND FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTIES. IN COUNTRY SIDE, "CAMPAIGN OF EXPLANATION" SAID TO BE CONTINUING BUT NO DETAILS GIVEN. AS PREDICTED BY FLN SOURCE, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CAMPAIGNING IN ALGIERS.

2. TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURE OF NEW ASSEMBLY REMAIN UNANSWERED:

A. FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK: NOT CLEAR AT THIS JUNCTURE IF DEPUTIES WILL BE COMPELLED TO RESIGN THEIR CURRENT POSITION. PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTIONS INDICATED TO VISITING AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT DEPUTIES WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR REGULAR JOBS. HOWEVER, ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL TOLD US HE WAS CERTAIN THAT MINISTERS AT LEAST WOULD BE ASKED TO RESIGN.

B. SALARY: PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL JUST MENTIONED TOLD AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER DEPUTIES

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WOULD BE PAID SALARY NOT YET SETTLED.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOREGOING QUESTIONS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO ASSEMBLY'S FUTURE PLACE IN SUN, ALL CONCERNED APPARENTLY CONTENT TO SORT THINGS OUT AFTER ELECTION HAS TAKEN PLACE. IF NOTHING ELSE, THIS IS GOOD INDICATION OF DEGREE OF CONTROL REGIME EXERCISES OVER

MINISTERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ELITE WHO ARE
CANDIDATES AND WHOSE FUTURE DEPENDENT ON HOW RESIGNATION & SALARY QUE
STIONS RESOLVED.

DUNBAR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0717
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaaupr.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed51f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3271795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: QUESTIONS REMAIN
TAGS: PINT, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed51f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009